

**TIMOTHY V. WHITE**

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2073 '99 SEP -9 10:57

Sept. 1, 1999

Honorable Jane Henney  
Commissioner, Food and Drug  
Administration  
Dockets Management Branch HFA  
305 Food and Drug Administration, Rm T-  
1060  
5630 Fishers Lane  
Rockville MD 20852

Dear Ms. Henney,

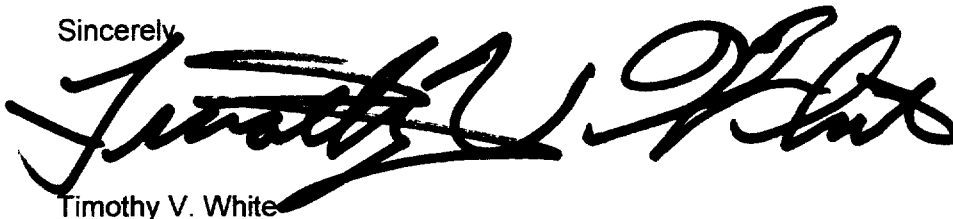
Having worked in epidemiological field research I am concerned about veterinary use of human antibiotics. It would be a wonderful surprise and fascinating scientific puzzle if we eventually demonstrate that routine human antibiotic use in livestock feed is completely benign, or insignificant in breeding resistant strains of susceptible bacteria. I hope this somehow turns out to be the case.

How do you, as Commissioner, decide? You are a key public health officer, not an economic or agricultural advisor. The mandate of your position is singular. Your decision must be framed by these questions: What are the public health consequences of endorsing such use, and being wrong? What are the public health consequences of acting on the studies pointing to diminished effectiveness of these antibiotics in humans, and being wrong?

Your concern is neither the agricultural lobby nor the international imbroglio. Nor the anti-science fanatics. Your responsibility is to err on the side of public health caution, not financial caution. If your decision is overruled by political and economic considerations, so be it. Your obligation will have been met, and your conscience will be clear. We will support you.

Please don't risk your name being raised in 20 years on a Science and Health program as an example of a public health leader led into disastrous compromise for farm lobbyists' Peace in Our Time.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy V. White'.

Timothy V. White

99P-0485

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165 Pine Ridge Drive  
Orcas WA 98280



Please  
note Stamp

Honorable Jane Henney  
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